MASTER OF ARTS IN AMERICAN STUDIES

As of fall 2021, admission to the graduate program in American Studies has been suspended.

Applications to the program are not being accepted at this time.

Program Director
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Program Description
The Master of Arts in American studies program is designed to provide students with training in the content, theory, and methods for studying the history and culture of the United States and is designed to provide both training and experience in developing and implementing public humanities and educational programs. Special emphasis is placed on the application of the humanities in community, museum, and school settings. The program offers a core of courses in American studies, art and literature, history, working-class studies, and public practice, along with opportunities to work in local museums, schools, community projects, and other public humanities programs. Courses for the program have been drawn from five different colleges, providing students the chance to gain a truly broad and diverse education while deepening their knowledge of American culture. The M.A. in American studies also offers a teaching track designed for secondary school teachers.

Admission Requirements
Students must have a cumulative grade point average in undergraduate study of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale). The bachelor's degree may be in any field, but students should have taken at least 12 hours of upper-division coursework in some combination of the arts, humanities, and/or social sciences. Applicants must include a personal statement detailing goals and decision for pursuing graduate study in American Studies.

Graduate Faculty
John M. Hazy, Ph.D., Professor, Chair
Community/behavioral health (drugs and crime); methodology and assessment; life course and cultural issues; teaching effectiveness

Martha Pallante, Ph.D., Professor
Early American studies; material culture; pedagogy

Degree Requirements
Students must complete 36 semester hours of coursework at the graduate level.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required Core Courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMER 6900</td>
<td>Approaches to American Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMER 6990</td>
<td>Independent Project 1</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practice Area</td>
<td>Select two credits from one of the following tracks:</td>
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Teaching Track
Select two of the following:
- AMER 6970 Teaching Working-Class Studies
- AMER 6975 Interdisciplinary Teaching
- ENGL 6906 Teaching of Literature
- ENGL 6907 Teaching of Writing
- ENGL 6974 English Education Workshop
- ENGL 6976 Studies in English Education
- HIST 6950 Studies in the Teaching of History

Public Practice Track
- SED 6935 Curriculum Development in VBME
- AMER 6930 Humanities in the Community
- AMER 6980 Public Humanities Internship

Focus Area
Select at least four courses from one of the following areas: 12

Cultural Studies
- ANTH 6910 Special Anthropological Problems
- ART 5881 Twentieth Century Art to 1960
- ART 5882 Twentieth Century Art from 1960
- ENGL 6915 Early American Studies
- ENGL 6917 Nineteenth-Century American Studies
- ENGL 6922 Twentieth-Century American
- ENGL 6923 Working Class Literature
- ENGL 6965 Studies in Film
- FNGL 6900 Seminar
- HIST 5806 American Architectural History 1
- HIST 5807 American Architectural History 2
- HIST 6940 Oral History
- SOC 6900 Special Sociological Problems

American History
- FOUN 6905 Educational Challenges in Historical Perspective
- HIST 6910 Readings in American History
- HIST 6912 Research Seminar in American Colonial History
- HIST 6913 Research Seminar in 19th-Century America
- HIST 6914 Research Seminar in 20th-Century America
- HIST 6941 American Material Culture

Working-Class Studies
- AMER 5850 Class and Culture
- AMER 6910 Introduction to Working-Class Studies
- AMER 6970 Teaching Working-Class Studies
- ENGL 6923 Working Class Literature
- HIST 6939 Labor in US History
- HIST 6945 Interpretation and Preservation of the Industrial Built Environment

Public History
- EDAD 6933 Educational Leadership and Organizational Change
- ENGL 6944 Document Design and Production
- ENGL 6953 Publications Issues and Management
- ENGL 6992 Professional Communication
- HIST 5810 Conservation of the Historic Built Environment
- HIST 6942 Applied History
- HIST 6945 Interpretation and Preservation of the Industrial Built Environment
- HIST 6942 Applied History
- HIST 6943 Practicum in Applied History
- HIST/ENGL 6946 Historical Editing
- HIST 6955 Museum Curation and Interpretation 1
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<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST 6956</td>
<td>Museum Curation and Interpretation 2</td>
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<td>HIST 6957</td>
<td>Special Topics in Applied History</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMER 6970</td>
<td>Teaching Working-Class Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMER 6975</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Teaching</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMER 6980</td>
<td>Public Humanities Internship</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMER 6982</td>
<td>Special Topics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>AMER 6985</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>AMER 6990</td>
<td>Independent Project</td>
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<td>AMER 6910</td>
<td>Introduction to Working-Class Studies</td>
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<td>AMER 6930</td>
<td>Introduction to Working-Class Studies</td>
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</tr>
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<td>AMER 6956</td>
<td>Museum Curation and Interpretation 2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMER 6957</td>
<td>Special Topics in Applied History</td>
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**Distribution Requirement**

Select four additional courses with at least one from each of the focus areas above. 12

**Total Semester Hours** 36

1. The required course, AMER 6900 Independent Project in American Studies, requires each student to complete an independent project, such as:
   - a major research project,
   - the design and promotion of a special exhibit at a museum,
   - the development of an education program at a local library, or
   - the completion of a planning project in cooperation with a local community development agency.

Students will work closely with a committee of YSU faculty and community specialists to design and implement their individual projects.

**Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will analyze the various ways in which American culture is complex and diverse. Understanding American culture requires attention to how American diversity is reflected in the ideas, events, trends, texts, and issues created and used by Americans in everyday life as well as in community life and politics.

2. Students will explore and practice strategies for doing interdisciplinary analysis, which relies on the development of complex inquiry, selection of appropriate materials and concepts from a wide array of options, and the application of appropriate methods for interpreting and integrating diverse sources.

3. Students will create papers and projects in courses that demonstrate their ability to effectively communicate cultural knowledge and analyze why and how their choices are effective. This requires students to make appropriate choices about format, content, organization, and the use of evidence based on one's purpose, audience, and situation.

4. Students will develop connections between campus and community through papers, projects, and internships that apply the academic work to realms beyond the academy.

5. Students will plan, develop, write, and publicly present original research through their independent (thesis) projects.

6. Students will acquire professional experiences appropriate to the field of American Studies.

**Graduate Courses**

**AMER 5845 Work in America 3 s.h.**
Examines the changing characteristics, expectations, and representations of work in America. Includes the exploration of demographic, historic, economic, technological, sociological, religious, ethical, popular, and poetic perspectives on work.

*Prereq.*: Junior standing.

*Cross-listed:* MGT 5845.

**AMER 5850 Class and Culture 3 s.h.**
Theories of social class structure and formation, relationships between class and culture, representations of class and work, intersections of class with other aspects of cultural identity (race, gender, sexuality, place), and theories and methods of working-class studies.

*Prereq.*: Graduate standing or AMER 3701.

**AMER 6900 Approaches to American Studies 3 s.h.**
Introduction to American studies with emphasis on history of the field, interdisciplinary approaches, and cultural diversity.

**AMER 6900 Introductions to American Studies with emphasis on history of the field, interdisciplinary approaches, and cultural diversity.**

**AMER 6900 Approaches to American Studies 3 s.h.**
Introduction to developments, approaches, and issues in new working-class studies, including intersections of class with other categories of identity, disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives, representations of the working class in the arts and media, and political and economic constructions of class.

**AMER 6930 Humanities in the Community 3 s.h.**
Opportunities, challenges, and strategies for developing, promoting, and implementing public humanities projects in various settings, including community development and organizing, community-based adult education, and programs in museums and other public humanities organizations.

*Prereq.:* AMER 6900.

**AMER 6970 Teaching Working-Class Studies 3 s.h.**
Interdisciplinary teaching strategies focused on incorporating attention to work, class, diversity, and local history and culture into K-12 and college courses.

**AMER 6975 Interdisciplinary Teaching 3 s.h.**
Introduction to interdisciplinarity and its application in the classroom with emphasis on integration of humanities and social sciences.

**AMER 6980 Public Humanities Internship 3 s.h.**
Supervised work-and-learning experience in American studies under the direction of an American studies core faculty member and an employee of a participating organization.

**AMER 6982 Special Topics 3 s.h.**
Specialized topics selected by the staff. May be repeated once with a different topic.

*Prereq.:* Permission of the American studies program coordinator and instructor.

**AMER 6985 Independent Study 3 s.h.**
Individual study in American studies or a related discipline under the supervision of a faculty member. May be repeated once.

*Prereq.:* Permission of the American studies program coordinator and instructor.

**AMER 6990 Independent Project 1-3 s.h.**
Completion of individual project in a community or school setting. May be repeated for a maximum of three semester hours.

*Prereq.:* Proposal and review meeting with committee.